

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:
    - (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;
    - (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and
    - (c) discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on the monitored aspect.
  2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network attacks.
  3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.
  4. The method as recited in claim 3, and further comprising generating a summary of the accounting information.
  5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a plurality of ports.
  6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.
  7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect of the received accounting information includes monitoring a rate of receipt of the accounting information.

- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect  
2 of the received accounting information includes detecting whether the rate of  
3 receipt of the accounting information exceeds a predetermined amount.
- 1 9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein monitoring the at least one aspect  
2 of the received accounting information includes monitoring a load on a  
3 system receiving the accounting information.
- 1 10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 11. A computer program product for processing network accounting information,  
2 comprising:  
3 (a) computer code for receiving accounting information over a packet-switched  
4 network;  
5 (b) computer code for monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting  
6 information; and  
7 (c) computer code for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information  
8 based on the monitored aspect.
- 1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
2 accounting information is discarded for providing a defense against network  
3 attacks.
- 1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the  
2 accounting information is discarded for dealing with heavy network traffic.
- 1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, and further comprising  
2 computer code for generating a summary of the accounting information.

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5 (c) logic for discarding at least a portion of the accounting information based on  
6 the monitored aspect.

1 21. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:  
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;  
3 (b) monitoring at least one aspect of the received accounting information; and  
4 (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on  
5 the monitored aspect.

1 22. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:  
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;  
3 (b) receiving an indication relating to at least one aspect of the received  
4 accounting information; and  
5 (c) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on  
6 the indication.

1 23. A method for processing network accounting information, comprising:  
2 (a) receiving accounting information over a packet-switched network;  
3 (b) detecting a scan of a plurality of ports;  
4 (c) detecting a scan of a plurality of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;  
5 (d) detecting a rate of receipt of the accounting information;  
6 (e) detecting whether the rate of receipt of the accounting information exceeds a  
7 predetermined amount;  
8 (f) detecting a load on a system receiving the accounting information;  
9 (g) conditionally preventing an overload of the accounting information based on  
10 aspects detected during steps (b)-(f); and  
11 (h) generating a summary of the accounting information.